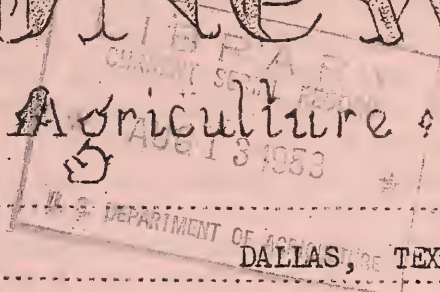


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USDA Club News

U.S. Department of Agriculture



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JULY , 1953

DALLAS, TEXAS

FHA Employees Receive Awards

Certificates of Appreciation and monetary awards were given to the following FHA Area Finance employees:
FREEMAN O. STEPHENSON,
NANCY M. VITTRUP,
CLARA H. BOYD,
ANNIE M. WILLIAMS,
WINFIELD W. JERNIGAN.

The last two share a joint award, both suggesting the use of form FHA-573 as a receipt control. Mr. Stephen-

(Continued on page 2)

New Leave Law Voted...

On July 2 the President signed into law H.R. 4654, a bill to amend the Annual and Sick Leave Act of 1951. This new leave regulation becomes Public Law 102, 83rd Congress, and affects almost everyone in Federal service. It has both some good points and some bad. It kills the Thomas "use-it-or-lose-it" rider, with its June 30 leave-forfeiture deadline; it changes the leave ceiling; changes the year-end date by which the ceiling is computed; and removes certain categories of employees from coverage. It changes rules governing lump-sum payments, as well as transfer of leave.

Your new ceiling will eventually be 30 days, but (if now more than 30 days) the new law permits you to retain whatever you had earned at the close of the last pay period in the calendar year 1952. You may

(see page 3 please)

FHA Head To Discuss Drouth Loans

As we go to press word comes that Robert M. McLeaish, New FHA Administrator, will visit Texas FHA offices to discuss methods of effectuating the emergency drouth aid program initiated by President Eisenhower and Secretary Benson.

Mr. McLeaish emphasizes that the regular FHA loan program will not be disturbed by the added job of processing the livestock disaster loans, which spring directly from the emergency created by the threat to ranch foun-

(Continued on page 2)

Civil Service Catechism

We continue with questions and answers regarding our Civil Service Retirement System.

Q. How is credit given for services which were performed before the Retirement Act went into effect Aug. 1, 1920?

A. This is "free" service for which credit is allowed without deposits being made.

Q. How is the amount of deposits determined?

A. Deposits are made up of the regular deductions, plus interest, during periods of employment at the rate of 4 % to Dec. 31, 1947, 3 % thereafter, compounded annually. Regular deductions were 2½ % from Aug. 1, 1920 to June 30, 1926; 3½ % to June 30, 1942; 5 % to the day before the first pay period in July, 1948; and 6 % thereafter.

Q. Is it to the employee's advantage to make the deposit?

(see page 2, please)

P M A TRANSFEREES GETTING "ACCLIMATED" TO DENVER

A note to the editor from some of the PMA personnel transferred to Denver last month tells of a hectic time getting settled in the new location, housing and other incidental matters, and a gentle gibe at the "hot, drouthy furnace" called Texas as contrasted to "cool Colorado". . . Glad to hear from you, folks, but please lay off the razzberries. Your Dr. Krick had to come down here to find a job. (Ain't nothing wrong with Texas a few drops of aqua pura in the right place won't cure!)

* * * * *

ROBERT M. MacLEAISH IS APPROVED AS NEW F H A HEAD

Robert M. MacLeaish, Texas farm leader, was confirmed by the Senate to replace Dillard B. Lasseter, resigned. Mr. McLeaish, whose residence is in McAllen, Texas, has been associated with the agricultural industry in one capacity or another for many years. He was the head of TexSun Citrus Exchange, Texas' largest farmer citrus cooperative, from 1940 to 1945, and general manager of the Lower Rio Grande Planning Board from 1946 to 1948. From 1924 to 1940 he was president of the Port Isabel Corporation, developing and supervising farm and townsite property in the Port Isabel area. When appointed to the FHA post he was executive vice president of Sugartex Corporation, handling various agricultural by-products. During world war II he served on advisory committees for War Food Admin., War Production Administration OPA, and War Manpower Commission.

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CIVIL SERVICE CATECHISM...(Continued from Page 1)

A. Individual circumstances differ; all factors are not of equal importance. Weigh the total cost in your own case against the advantages listed below: It insures the maximum annuity being paid to you and your survivor; your account in the fund is increased by the 3 % compound interest paid on the deposit; Any balance remaining at your death will go as a lump-sum payment to your survivor if not paid in the form of an annuity; The sum of your deposit will be returned to you in 10 years of annuity payments after which you will continue to receive the same full annuity the remainder of your life; and the deposit becomes a part of your retirement fund. Remember that only you can make the deposit, your survivor cannot.

Q. How is the amount of the redeposit determined?

A. It must be the exact amount taken out of the fund, plus interest at 4 % to Dec. 31, 1947, 3 % thereafter, compounded annually.

Quotes

Let us go blithely on our business all the day, bring us to our resting beds weary, content, and undishonored, and grant us then, the gift of sleep-ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

*** **

F H A EMPLOYEES (From P.1)

son's suggestion, worth \$50.00 to him, eliminates the typed affidavit across the form certifying long-distance telephone calls. His suggestion will be of equal merit in all governmental agencies. Mrs. Vittrup suggested a revision on Treasury form 2254, for which she received \$35.00. It is her second successful try in USDA's work improvement program. Mrs. Boyd's suggestion revises a portion of form FHA-37 for which she received \$10.00.

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"Daffy Nations"

TACT: The art of making your guests feel at home when you wish they were.

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BIGAMIST: One who loves not wisely but TWO well.

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F H A HEAD TO DISCUSS....

(Continued from P. 1)

dation herds by starvation and thirst. Aid administered through the new loan law will complement present measures available through both PMA and FHA and will not supersede any phase of either agency's program, which, for the most part, are not basically emergency in character or purpose.

The USDA Club News is published monthly at 912 South Ervay, fifth floor, Lowich Building. Send all news contributions to that address, or telephone the editor, ST-5611, extension 2044. Want-ads welcomed but please keep'em brief!

James L. (Jimmy) Hyles

EDITOR

E e m s

Love someone--in God's name love someone!
For this is the bread of the inner life, without which a part of you will starve and die.
And though you feel you must be stern, even hard, in your life of affairs, make for yourself at least a Little Corner, somewhere in the great world where you may relax and give free reign to this inner impulse within every one, to be kind--to Love someone!
* * * * *

SHORT - SHOTS: FHA farm ownership and farm housing loans may now be made to Korean vets...Interest rates upped on F.O. loans...The President will designate this year as the 50th Anniversary year for Extension Service...Already talk of amending new leave law.. One agency (not) in USDA) suggests $4\frac{1}{2}$ years limit for old leave ceilings. President Eisenhower in favor of restoring payment of accumulated leave earned in current year. Under new law after August 31 this year's leave will be lost in case of death or separation if total exceeds 30 days...

* * * * *

SECRETARY BENSON PUTS DROUTH-AID MACHINERY IN MOTION

After meeting with Governor Shivers, and taking a look at the parched prairies of West Texas, Secretary Benson authorized immediate measures to get PMA and FHA aid rolling for hard-hit farmer-ranchers. These included subsidized feed for the stock, livestock and disaster loans for the cattlemen. Most of the loan load will probably be handled through FHA, with PMA processing the feed emergency--many carloads of which have already been rushed to the stricken areas.

Life is a voyage that's homeward bound---Melville

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REGION 14 C S C OFFICE IS EXPANDED JULY 1.

The 14th Regional office of the Civil Service Commission, under Mr. Paul Figg, Regional Director, has been given jurisdiction over the states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. The office is located in Dallas. From 1943 to '46 the office embraced the states of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Since then, until July 1, 1953, it has served the state of Texas alone.

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...NEW LEAVE LAW VOTED...(continued from page 1)

use it, or if separated, receive a lump sum payment, or if death occurs, your estate will get it. However, after August 31, 1953, you must take leave accruing this year as leave, and in the event of death no payment will be made to your estate. (The President is said to favor a change in this clause). If your leave accumulation was less than 30 days at the close of the last payroll period in 1952 (Dec. 21) your leave ceiling will be 30 days maximum, (continental USA). As we stated above, if it was over 30 days you may retain your old ceiling conditioned on the provision making it mandatory on your supervisors to have you take enough leave over a period of years to reduce your ceiling to the 30-day limit. Agency heads will be required to make reports to GAO outlining the progress of this provision of the new law.

The year-end ceiling date has been changed from the last full pay period to the period falling two weeks later. The net advantage of this is that you will be able to use some of your excess leave for the Christmas holiday without affecting your ceiling. Remember, any reduction of your ceiling becomes permanent if over the 30-day limitation. Presidential appointees earning over \$14,800 are now removed from the leave system and may not accumulate leave. They will receive time off by executive order. Finally, your leave may now be transferred to a different leave system if you transfer jobs.

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK PROCLAIMED JULY 19 THRU 25

"FARM TO LIVE AND LIVE TO FARM!" With that slogan the 10th Annual National Farm Safety Week will get underway July 19. Sponsored jointly by the National Safety Council and the Department of Agriculture, it seeks to make the farm population more "safety-conscious" and reduce the number of farm accidents.

In the last ten years their efforts have been very successful. Fatal accidents dropped from a high of 18,500 to 14,500; non-fatal from 1½ million to 1¼ million per year. 28 states now have farm safety Committees representing farmers' organizations and other public and private agencies. Texas is one of the 28.

In its "safety calendar" for the week the USDA publication lists under Tuesday: "Livestock--do you lead the bull on a staff? If not, the undertaker has a blank space in his schedule for your family!" And for Wednesday: "Are your haylofts floored with securely nailed boards? If not prepare yourself for a fast trip and a sudden stop!"

Some safety rules listed (applicable equally to the city dweller): Use non-slip safety backing on rugs; repair broken steps, porch floors; provide lighting and hand-rails for all stairs; keep matches out of reach of children; do not use flammable fluids to start or hasten fires; and store such fuels outside the house; provide, and use, adequate ash trays.

Latest statistics show almost half the fatal accidents to farm folk happened within the home. Falls ranked first, burns second, in the death toll.

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WHO WAS THIS GUY DEMOSTHENES?

Anyone with a "yen to yak"--latent in everyone with a tongue--is invited to contact Jefferson D. Reagan, Chief Fund Accounting, FHA Area Finance, for further particulars. (Exten. 2056) Jeff is the President of Trinity Toastmasters Club, local affiliate of Toastmasters International, Inc. Anyone over 21 interested in learning how to make his hands and feet behave while making a speech, is eligible. Being of a congenial turn with the ability to "stow the groceries" while listening to others speak or trying to remember what you are going to say, helps too. By the time club members have "rotated" several times as the speaker, critic, toastmaster, speech evaluator, or topic-master, they can face any audience without losing "face". The Trinity Toastmasters Club came about when FHA Area Finance Bossman C.W. Spung asked ASD Chief Max Ulexy to check possibilities of a Carnegie course in speech-training, or its equivalent. Later after a huddle with Fiscal Chief Howard Martin, a meeting was called, volunteers invited, and R.Woody Everett, Supply Chief was elected first president. A nominal fee is charged as dues, and anyone in USDA is invited--er for that matter anyone suitable outside the Department. Ladies? That's another story, of which more later.

Brain Teasers

It was easy to see that he had drunk too much. Staggering along the street he tripped and fell. Focusing his eyes with an effort he read the house number stenciled on the curb and let out a frightened yelp. "They always said I'd wind up here," he wailed.

What number was the house and why was he frightened? (A tip, he was in the 7700 block)

Answer at bottom of page...

+ * + * + * + * + *

Where can you walk through four states in 4 seconds?

(See answer at bottom of page)

* * * * *

Did You Know?

....That some folks have no respect for age unless it is bottled?

....That the present "Old Glory" has been in existence since 1912 and any changes can be made either by Presidential executive order or by Congress?...That if one more state is admitted it will be simple to rearrange the 49 stars into 7 rows of 7 stars each, but 2 states would drive flagmakers crazy?

....That the percentage of disabling injuries in the Department of Agriculture has decreased from 18.4 to 10.4 per million manhours in the last 10 years? * * * *

ANSWERS TO BRAIN-TEASERS:

The house number was: 7734
Turn it upside down--the way the drunk viewed it and--no wonder he was scared almost sober!
ANSWER TO four-state teaser: Arizona, Utah, Colo., New Mex.